



# Project Lifesaver

## Youth Project Lifesaver Fact Sheet

### The Program

Project Lifesaver is a program designed to help individuals with Autism and other developmental disabilities who may wander or get lost. Project Lifesaver uses state-of-the-art technology, employing wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost children and young adults. It is now being used in all 50 states, Canada and Australia.

### The Bracelet

Individuals who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a locating signal. The bracelet is a one-ounce battery-operated radio transmitter that produces an automatic locating signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal can be traced on the ground or in the air up to 8-10 miles. The bracelet is water resistant and can be worn in the bath, shower, pool, etc. It is made out of very strong plastic material that is difficult to remove without the use of scissors.

### Search and Rescue

After caregivers call 911, their local police department will be dispatched to the area to begin the search for the missing person. Westchester County Police will also be dispatched to the area to search with a mobile locator receiver system. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team is able to positively locate and identify the missing person, reducing search times from hours and days to minutes.

### Eligibility for Project Lifesaver

Children who are eligible for Project Lifesaver through the Westchester County Initiative **requirements**:

- Have a diagnosis of Autism or other developmental disorder
- Have a history of wandering or elopement
- Live in the community with a primary caregiver who provides daily, ongoing care (no residential facilities or group homes)
- Reside in Westchester County

### Families' Responsibilities

Trained WJCS staff will work cooperatively with families to ensure that their child's bracelet is safe and effective. Families will:

- Check their child's bracelet on a daily basis and record their checks in the log provided by WJCS
- Attend all battery change appointments with WJCS staff every 60 days
- Pay a \$325 fee for the initial year of membership and usage, \$85 fee every year after.

WJCS - Jewish Programs staff is available to answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have. You may call Isabel M. Pettersen at 914-761-0600 x2230, or reach her at [ipettersen@wjcs.com](mailto:ipettersen@wjcs.com).